

Introduced by Senator Kehoe
(Principal coauthor: Senator Leno)
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Ammiano)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member John A. Perez)

March 25, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution No. 28—Relative to the 2020 Census.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 28, as introduced, Kehoe. The 2020 Census.

This measure would urge the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to have the 2020 Census gather data on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States and federal
2 statutory law require the federal government to perform a census
3 of people living in the United States; and
4 WHEREAS, The federal government uses data collected from
5 the census for the allocation of federal funds, including, but not
6 limited to, funding for hospitals, job training centers, schools,
7 public works projects, and emergency services; and
8 WHEREAS, The number of representatives allocated to a state
9 to serve in the United States House of Representatives is based on
10 data collected from the census; and
11 WHEREAS, Statistics based on data collected from the census
12 are used for a myriad of public benefit purposes, including, but
13 not limited to, quality of life issues and advocacy; and
14 WHEREAS, Census data that is available is principally related
15 to same-sex couples; and

1 WHEREAS, Statistics based on data from the 2000 Census have
2 estimated that approximately 5.87 million people in the United
3 States are gay or lesbian; and

4 WHEREAS, The 2010 Census will be the first census to release
5 a count of both same-sex spouses and same-sex unmarried partners;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The census discriminates against the lesbian, gay,
8 bisexual, and transgender community because it does not currently
9 include questions regarding sexual orientation; and

10 WHEREAS, The census also discriminates against transgender
11 respondents by failing to take into account gender identity; and

12 WHEREAS, Same-sex couples are raising children throughout
13 the country with significantly less economic resources than
14 heterosexual married couples; and

15 WHEREAS, Same-sex couple families are significantly more
16 likely to be classified as poor than are heterosexual married
17 families; and

18 WHEREAS, The census discriminates against the lesbian, gay,
19 bisexual, and transgender community by not having policies in
20 place that identify and count members of this community; and

21 WHEREAS, If the census were to count members of the lesbian,
22 gay, bisexual, and transgender community, the data could be used
23 to appropriately allocate resources and services to this community
24 just as it does other communities; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress and
27 the President of the United States to enact legislation to have the
28 2020 Census gather data on sexual orientation and gender identity;
29 and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
31 this resolution to the President of the United States, each Senator
32 and Representative in the Congress of the United States, and to
33 the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature of the
34 states.